Woman TikToker killed by husband in Swabi

SWABI: A woman TikToker was allegedly shot dead by her husband here on Monday, the police said.

DSP Topi Shakeel Khan told *Dawn* that the TikToker, identified as Rizwana Begum, alias Haseena, had married a man belonging to Batakara village, but relations between them deteriorated over the last few months.

He said that the couple had a six-year-old daughter, who was presently with the accused, Murad Khan.

"The deceased planned to file a case for daughter's custody in a local court. She had gone to meet her husband at Pointia village to demand her custody but was killed by him," DSP Khan said.

The preliminary investigation and evidence collected from the crime scene revealed that the accused took her to a deserted route and opened fire on her there. Soon after the incident, he went into hiding, said SHO Topi city police station Saifullah Khan. He said the police were hunting for him.

The body was taken to Topi Tehsil Headquarters Hospital for autopsy and further investigation. The SHO said that an FIR had not yet been registered, but her brother had confirmed to police that she was killed by her husband. — Correspondent

Gunmen kill two persons in N. Waziristan

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: Gunmen killed two persons in separate incidents here on Monday, the police said.

A man was killed in a targeted attack in the limits of Miranshah police station. The incident took place in the Mal Mandi Sarai Darpakhel area, where unidentified assailants opened indiscriminate fire, killing Malik Mohammad Rahim Kabalkhel on the spot. He was on his way to purchase groceries when the attack occurred.

In another incident, a local shopkeeper was killed when some assailants opened fire on him. Police and rescue teams reached the scene soon after the incident and shifted the body to Civil Hospital Miranshah for medico-legal formalities.

A police official said an investigation had been launched and evidence collected from the crime scene. "Efforts are under way to trace the attackers, and all possible angles are being examined," the official added, stating that security had been tightened in and around the area.

The motive behind the killing could not be immediately ascertained.

In another development, a bomb explosion targeted the car of a peace committee member in the Dabak Syedkhel area within the jurisdiction of Town Police Station, Bannu. The peace committee member, Malik Sabeel Khan, escaped unharmed in the blast.

According to initial reports, Sabeel Khan was travelling in his vehicle when an explosive device detonated near his car. Fortunately, no loss of life was reported in the incident. Upon receiving information, a police contingent reached the scene and cordoned off the area. Police collected evidence and launched an investigation into the incident. — Correspondent

Enmity claims three lives in Lakki

LAKKI MARWAT: Three people were killed while one received bullet injuries in a firing incident in the Kattakhel area here on Monday.

Police said that the triple murder occurred within the limits of Lakki city police station.

They identified the deceased as Rehanullah son of Sanaullah, Abdullah son of Inamullah and Farmanullah son of Naimatullah, all residents of Kattakhel.

The bodies and injured Abdul Rehman were transported to the Government City Hospital. The injured person was later referred to a hospital in Bannu.

Police said that an old enmity led to the occurrence of the incident. They said that they had launched an investigation into the triple murder incident. — Correspondent

A VENDOR sells fruit on the roadside as dense fog engulfs Peshawar on Monday. — APP

PA speaker seeks in-camera briefing on military operations in merged areas

Swati requests Peshawar corps commander to brief 40-member house committee on overall security situation in KP

By Umer Farooq

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati has requested the Peshawar corps commander to give an in-camera briefing on military operations being carried out in the province's merged districts, it emerged on Monday.

In a letter dated January 8, a copy of which is available with Dawn, the speaker said that the KP Assembly had constituted a 40-member special house committee on September 8, 2025 to examine the overall security situation in KP.

Swati said that the committee comprised more than 40 members, including the leader of the house, the leader of the opposition, provincial ministers, parliamentary leaders of respective political parties and members of the KP Assembly, reflecting a "broad-based and representative forum of the house".

The speaker said that in pursuance of the committee's mandate, it had received detailed briefings from key stakeholders — including from the chief secretary, the additional chief secretary of the Home and Tribal Affairs Department and the provincial police chief — which was regarded as essential input for the committee "prior to the finalisation of its findings and presenting a report to the house".

Swati said that during the second meeting of the special committee, the members further resolved to engage all political parties and relevant stakeholders across the province.

He also noted that a grand peace jirga was held on December 12, 2025, which "unanimously adopted a comprehensive declaration outlining a road map for long-term peace and stability in the province". He further said that the declaration was also shared with the federal government.

"In continuation of the consultative process, the committee desires to receive a detailed briefing from Headquarters XI Corps, Peshawar, particularly in the context of the ongoing operations being conducted by the federal government and law enforcement agencies in the merged districts of KP," he said.

"The committee acknowledges the importance of security measures, however, it considers that operations alone, without broader political, social, and developmental initiatives, might not ensure sustainable peace and stability and could risk further unrest in the province," he said.

"In view of the sensitivity of this matter, I am further directed to request that an in-camera briefing for the special committee kindly be arranged at the KP Assembly on a mutually convenient date and time," he said.

He said that the committee would highly appreciate the corps commander's cooperation in this regard, which would assist it in discharging its constitutional responsibility.

Security sources, however, said the corps commander had not received any such letter and termed sending a direct communique from the office of the KP Assembly speaker a violation of official protocol.

They said that under the constitutional and administrative framework, the provincial government lacked the authority to directly contact the corps commander or General Headquarters (GHQ) for any kind of formal, in-camera or institutional briefing from the military.

"In this regard, the legal and recognised procedure is that the provincial government sends the matter in writing to the federal government; the federal government forwards it to the General Headquarters through the Ministry of Defence and then formal instructions are issued from there to the relevant formation," a security source said.

Security sources also said that by ignoring clear, established and legal procedure, the PTI government's act of writing directly to the corps commander was not only a violation of Constitutional order but also a deviation from the established institutional principles of civil-military relations.

Sources said that GHQ had authorised the day-to-day liaison or routine coordination but an in-camera briefing was by no means a routine matter, adding that it required the federal government's approval.

28 stranded Pakistani students return from Afghanistan

By Ibrahim Shinwari

KHYBER: About 28 Pakistani students, who were stranded in Afghanistan since closure of all borders on October 12, returned to Pakistan via Torkham border late on Monday evening.

Immigration officials at Torkham were called to their offices for procedural clearance of the travel documents of returning Pakistani students, who had arrived at the Afghan side of the border early on Monday morning after an official assurance by Islamabad about their return.

The returning students were, however, made to wait till evening as the Afghan immigration officials insisted on an official correspondence from Pakistan foreign and interior ministries, allowing them to complete the immigration process.

Immigration officials at Torkham refused to share any information about the arrived students, except that they would be allowed to go home after completion of their immigration process.

It could also not be ascertained from official quarters if the government officials had arranged for any transportation of the students or provision of any monetary assistance to them as most of them were cash-strapped.

Sources told *Dawn* that Pakistani embassy had earlier shared a list of 28 students with the Afghan immigration officials prior to their departure from Kabul in order to facilitate their smooth return.

They said that most of the students belonged to different cities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with at least 15 of them enrolled in the medical faculty of Spinghar University Kabul while the rest of them were studying in different medical institutions of Jalalabad, Khost and Paktia provinces of Afghanistan.

About 20 of those students had got admissions in Afghanistan in the year 2023 while five had gone in 2022 and the remaining were admitted in 2024 with all of them financing their education from their own resources, said sources.

Mudassir Shah Afridi, a Landi Kotal resident who is currently in Kabul, told this scribe by telephone that another batch of more Pakistani students also left Kabul for Jalalabad on Monday afternoon after they heard about the permission granted by the Pakistani authorities for their return.

He said that those, who left Kabul on Monday afternoon, stayed in Jalalabad for the night as they feared that Torkham border would be closed at night.

He said that visas of most of the Pakistani students, traders, transporters and labourers had expired while they were also in financial crises as they got stranded in different regions of Afghanistan after closure of borders on October 12 due to diplomatic tension between the two neighbouring countries.

Mr Afridi said that some Afghan and Pakistani philanthropists in Kabul had arranged for the travelling of majority of the returning Pakistanis, mostly students, who had exhausted all their financial resources during the three months of frustrating wait.

The issue of stranded Pakistani students surfaced only three weeks after the closure of border when local students, who had come to their homes from Afghanistan either on vacations or for renewal of their visas, contacted officials for paving the way for their return because most of them had their examination planned for early November with the Afghan authorities not ready to give them any relaxation.

Meanwhile, relatives of the stranded students and other Pakistani citizens have demanded of Torkham border authorities to keep the border crossing open till late on Tuesday (today) to facilitate the maximum number of the stranded persons to return.

Dept orders probe into administrative anomalies at Harichand cattle farm

Says facility should introduce digital attendance system, adhere to biosecurity protocol

By Mohammad Ashfaq

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa livestock secretary Zareeful Manion Monday ordered an investigation into the alleged proxy attendance, questionable records of milk production, lack of cleanliness and threats to animal health at the government-owned Harichand cattle breeding and dairy farm in Charsadda district.

He also issued orders for the immediate introduction of a digital attendance system, improvement in cleanliness and adherence to biosecurity protocol at the farm.

The development came following a visit of the secretary to the facility.

Established in the early2000s at more than 500 acres of land, the farm has cattle farm units, cow sheds, feed processing arrangements and cattle semen processing unit.

"The secretary livestock and fisheries is pleased to constitute the fact-finding inquiry committee to inquire into the issues highlighted in (his) tour/inspection note of the official tour," read a notification.

It added that the committee consisted of deputy secretary of the department Ishaq Ahmad as the chairman and director (poultry health and production) Dr Habibur Rehman and senior research officer at the Veterinary Research Institute Dr Hameedullah as members.

According to the terms of reference, the committee will "dig out the issues highlighted in the inspection note, make an overall administrative and financial audit of the Harichand farm and suggest a transformative plan including short term and long-term solutions to the issues."

During a visit to the farm, officials found the overall state of cleanliness, hygiene and upkeep to be pathetic and below acceptable standards for a livestock facility, according to an official report.

It added that the farm had around 40 staff members for cleanliness but only two of them were found to be working during the visit, showing serious negligence, weak supervision and ineffective deployment.

The officials also declared staff attendance "casual and poorly controlled" and said attendance verification indicated that several individuals on rolls were not present on duty, while many daily-wage labourers and positions were suspected to be "ghost or non-genuine".

They complained that records of the attendance of casual workers were not provided despite repeated requests, entailing ghost or non-genuine casual labourers.

The officials voiced serious concern regarding proxy attendance, noting absent employees are marked present by proxies and that the persons working as daily wagers also reportedly perform proxy attendance roles, creating an arrangement of double benefit/double payment wage plus proxy-linked salary or benefit.

They complained that attendance was marked by the office clerk and not staff members and that in multiple cases, staff members were marked present despite their physical absence from the premises.

The officials noted that despite repeated requests, the file of the Livestock Breed Improvement Project was not provided, while the project under the leadership of the then project director was found to be deserted or abandoned.

According to them, the associated building, equipment and infrastructure were found to be in dilapidated and pathetic condition, indicating lack of stewardship and absence of maintenance planning. Also, sheds for 100 animals were closed, while milking parlours were non-functional and in pathetic condition.

The officials noted that aRs5 million power generator was missing from the project site, indicating a major lapse in asset control and required immediate verification, record examination and fixing of responsibility.

They also raised doubts about milk production figures and record-keeping and said the management failed to provide satisfactory evidence and reconciliation of production, distribution and related registers.

The officials noted that records weren't maintained for the production and sale of milk at the farm, while the room designated for the supervisor of the milking unit was locked, with the supervisor absent from duty.

They said 81 animals were milked at the farm with reported daily production of around 600 litres of milk, raising serious questions about the transparency and actual milk production.

The officials observed that milk was sold for Rs160 per litre but handwritten notes highlighted "doubtful" milk records, deposits and claims, and a lack of transparent reconciliation mechanisms.

They said the farm exhibited a complete and alarming disregard for established biosecurity protocols and fundamental human safety measures.

This negligence creates a high-risk environment that threatens animal health, compromises the integrity of biological products (sperm and milk) and exposes employees to significant occupational hazards, according to them.

The report said that in order to address these critical vulnerabilities and ensure proper fiduciary control, there was an immediate need for digitisation of the accounting system to maintain real-time records of all inventories, sales and expenses, eliminating manual ledger dependence.

It called for the establishment of a revolving fund or imprest account of a fixed amount for routine operational expenses, saying the fund should be replenished periodically based on authenticated expenditure statements and reconciled against farm income.

The report said a better alternative would make the facility autonomous to generate income and meet expenditures from its own accounts with surplus only going to the treasury.

It called for mandatory monthly reconciliations between physical stock, sales records, cash and bank records and treasury receipts and said quarterly internal audit reviews were required by the directorate to ensure compliance and rectify process gaps.

"These steps will segregate duties, create a clear audit trail, ensure timely deposit of public money and provide a sustainable model for meeting operational expenses," emphasised the report.